



THE THATCHAM POSTMARK

THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

WINTER EDITION JANUARY 2013



Yet again the society has had another great year. We had four superb speakers for the Thursday evenings – Alwyn Jones, Grace Davies, Sue Hopson and Colin Searle and two most interesting talks by Phillip Cant to the Monday afternoon meetings. On top of all that the rest of the activities arranged by Graeme and also chosen by members have been wide and varied and very well attended even on cold and dark evenings.

We were pleased to see some new members during the year and also several that have recently retired and can now come to the meetings.

The AGM posed no problems - subscriptions stay the same and we welcomed several new committee members who were elected on the night.

Congratulations to all the competition winners and thank you to all those that entered. A big thank you also to all those that have helped in many ways throughout the year and we now look forward to March and our next Westbex Stamp Fair.

Finally your committee hope that you had a lovely Christmas and wish you all a happy and prosperous new year.

Barney Bardsley, Chairman

Year 47

Issue 119

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Four of the Christmas Competition Prize-winners

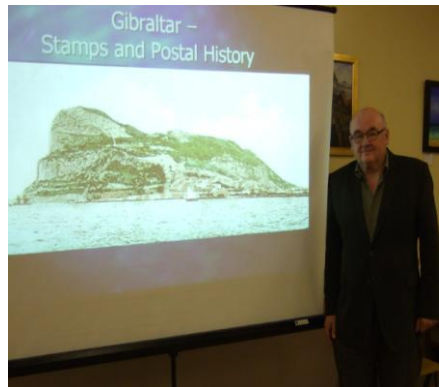
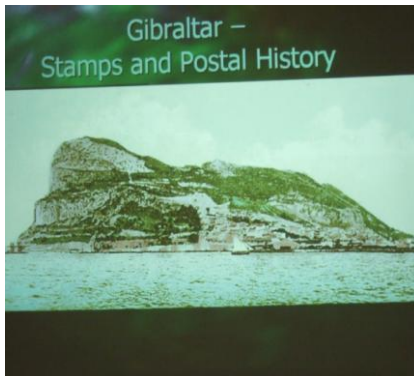
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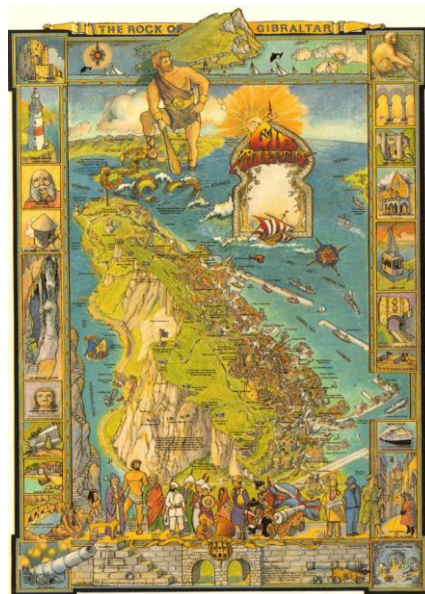
Winter Photo Gallery



Colin Searle with his superb illustrated power-point display and talk about Gibraltar



Some of the Thursday
'Postcard' people.



Colin Searle's wonderful
postcard of Gibraltar



Ian Keel's postcards made
from different materials.



Monday's quiz winners



Monday's members and
(and Jerry's hat!)



The Society Competition Trophies

PAST EVENTS

October

On **Monday 1st** the theme was Postcards and there was a good turnout of 26 members.

Jerry Wilson started the afternoon with some French postcards of churches and ecclesiastical buildings.

Juliet Keel then showed a lovely range of Canadian cards of where she lived while working there.

Tony Hillier then showed some romantic Belgian cards from his Belgian grandfather to his grandmother sent in about 1912, then cards and letters where the position and orientation of the stamp divulged the language of love to the receiver. These were followed by some `glamour` cards and memories of Ypres.

John Shambrook showed a range of aviation cards that included Bleriot's cross-channel trip and Bleriot plane cards from several locations.

David Beddoes showed us some postcards sent by his wife's uncle to his sister in 1919 and then cards from Palestine and Venice and then some WW1 silk issues. Very nice indeed.

To end the first half **Tony Jordan** showed several postcards of soldiers and the infantry that were presented free with the Wizard and Rover comics (takes you back a bit), then some silks of the 550th anniversary of the English civil war and some of the Bayeux Tapestry (actually embroidery).

Graeme Stewart started off the second half with old postcards of the Newtown Swan Inn, all from about 1902-1920. Then quite a lovely collection of scenic cards of the area many having very interesting Newbury postmarks. Some nice engraved cards as well.

Eric Osmond showed us a great display of cards about the Swansea and Mumbles railway from the early days of horse-drawn carriages of 1807 down to the early steam railways of 1877 then through to the electric years of trams and trains with overhead cables. Quite a lovely collection of old postcards.

Bob Paterson then showed us `stuff` he had accumulated over the years – German art deco cards, cards from Paterson and Sons Ltd Camp Coffee works of Glasgow, some cards from very strange places indeed and finally a couple of risqué French postcards.

Martin Farr finished off the displays by showing several `fold-out` postcard sets from Egypt which included Luxor, the Valley of the Kings, Hatshepsut's Temple complex and Abu Simbel which included some photos he took inside the false mountain to show how it was assembled when the whole structure was raised up some years ago now.

The afternoon was concluded with a mini-auction run by **David Beddoes**. There were 14 lots on offer and 10 were sold.

All in all an excellent and entertaining afternoon.

On **Thursday 18th** we were entertained by **Colin Searle** who, with the aid of a power-point presentation and stereo sound as well, gave a great evening on `Gibraltar through Philately` to 25 members.

Colin started with historical facts and illustrations from when the Atlantic burst through to form the Mediterranean sea, via the Roman era and the Arabic era and on to Queen Isabella who gave Gibraltar its coat of arms of the three towers. Then on to the British in 1704 and the great siege of 1779 which was finally lifted in 1782. Then data on the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 which was fought only 50 miles away. Then followed information on the first letters of 1823 – they were Spanish with combined currency and then ultimately all British from 1858 when the `G` cancel was introduced and the `A26` cancel. The first real Gibraltar stamps were of Victoria heads with peseta prices! Eventually went to l.s.d illustrated by lovely stamp values and postal stationary.

In part 2 Colin showed many superb postal history covers, air mails and cards with overprints and cancellations. He went into the illustrated history of `Fortress Gibraltar` in 1939 when all civilians and families were evacuated by 1940, the airport was built and 34 miles of tunnels were built by the Canadians. On to 1950 with the new constitution covers and full stamp sheets of values. Then a collection of QE2 definitives, sets of uniform issues of 1969-73 and finally to 2004, the 300th anniversary of the British taking over Gibraltar. The two sets of displayed material with the power point presentation and Colin's extensive knowledge of Gibraltar made this an exceptional evening.

Condolences

We are sad to announce that Peter Marshal CMG OBE, a former and well-respected member of the society, passed away in early October. Peter was an expert on QV 1d reds and other line-engraved issues and in the past gave illustrated talks to the society on his specialised subject.

Our sincere condolences go out to his family and friends.

It is thought that Peter's CMG - the Order of St Michael and St George, which is awarded for extraordinary and important non-military service in a foreign country or loyal service in relation to Foreign and Commonwealth affairs, may have been awarded for his long involvement with the British Nuclear test ban treaties. He was also deeply involved with Kidney research at Oxford.

November

The **Monday** meeting was on an 'Islands' theme and there were 23 members present.

Eric Osmond started the afternoon with a good selection from the islands of Jersey, Iceland, and Malta.

Ian Keel showed some large full sheets of New Zealand 'Health' stamps.

Juliet Keel showed us some lovely old style postcards and postal items of many islands including ones that they had been to such as Bermuda and the Scilly islands.

Tony Jordan brought along sheets that illustrated Eyn Hallow island and quite a few from up and around the East and West coast of Scotland including Staffa, Dawaar, Bernera and Bardsey and of course lots of horses, carriages and red Indians.

Martin Farr showed us a set of several sheets on the travels of Matsuo Basho around Honshu island and the Haiku poems that he created on his travels.

Bob Paterson showed us a lovely selection of cards and postal items from the Isles of Scilly – Bryher, St Agnes, St Martin's, St Mary's, Treco and Gugh islands.

David Beddoes then finished off the first half with items from Christmas Island and the new Australian Territories that showed industries, famous visitors and birds plus some Christmas issues.

For part two we welcomed **John Gibbins**, a long-standing club member who has just retired and can now join in the activities at last. John brought along some sheets from Heligoland, Ionia and Prince Edward islands. John's display sheets were on pale cream A4, 4-hole punched sheets that are issued with a 'Safe' 4-ring binder album and can be used in a printer whereas many album sheets cannot.

Then **Jerry Wilson** showed items from the Isle of Man including ships and flowers and the full sets of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

John Baxter brought along items from Canadian islands including Newfoundland and Prince Edward and some from Portuguese Cape Verde Islands.

Then finally **Graeme Stewart** showed us stamps, postal items and postcards from Stewart Island off of the south coast of S. Island New Zealand with items posted from the world's most southerly post office.

To finish off an excellent afternoon there was a mini auction of 15 lots with 7 items sold.

The **Thursday** meeting was held in the Council Offices as it was a voting day and, on a chilly damp evening, there were 25 members present for this Postcard evening.

Ann Martin brought along a lovely full set of 100 cards from the front covers of all the 'Puffin' books and PHQ cards of trains painted by Terence Cuneo (we all looked for the mouses).

Graeme Stewart showed 14 novelty postcards of the local area and Newbury from 1900-1910.

Tony Jordan brought Victorian and Edwardian cards of the Bank of England and Ludgate Hill and some Cowboy and Indian cards (what else!) celebrating the Pony Express.

Tony Hillier showed another beautiful display of pictorial cards from WW1, a composite set of 10 cards and some family cards from Antwerp.

Barry Smith brought along cards from 1918 to finance the Red Cross in South Africa and some 1911 airmail cards sent from Windsor to London.

Juliet Keel brought a large album of pre-WW1 cards – mostly of local areas in and around Newbury, Berkshire and Wiltshire plus many from Salisbury and Swindon. Quite a collection!

To start the second half **Martin Farr** showed some Japanese woodprint cards and an old one of Lenin.

Ian Keel then showed some great postcards from mostly Canada and America made from quite strange

materials such as paper, leather, cork, veneer and copper – see the pictures page.

Bob Paterson sent some cards via **Mike Gurr** which were WW1 cards from Falmouth- protecting the channel and harbour plus several showing captured enemy ships in Falmouth harbour.

Then to finish off an entertaining afternoon **Graeme Stewart** brought a collection of postcards of Thatcham town centre and the Broadway plus some more modern sheets to compare the changes over the years and some of the War Memorial which was originally in the Broadway.

Once again a most interesting evening for everyone.

December

A Christmas theme, quiz and social afternoon was held on Monday 3rd with 24 members present.

Ann Martin showed sheets of Christmas stamps from the UK and worldwide and an album of Christmas mini-sheets. **Jerry Wilson** donned his red bobble-hat to show us some Christmas issues from Guernsey from 2001 to 2012 – all very nice sets. **Bob Paterson** showed us some old postcards on a Christmas theme including gnomes, fairies, variations on Father Christmas and Christmas cats. **Ian Keel** (with some from Juliet) showed several sheets of cards and festivities plus some PHQ Christmas cards. Finally **Tony Jordan** put up some Christmas 'mailcoach' proofs, some lovely postcards of ~1900 and two beautiful Christmas telegrams from some years ago now. Then the meeting selected the meeting topics for next March to June - 'Eastern Delights', 'Overprints', 'Endangered Species' and 'Air Mails'.

For half time we had mince pies, 'pigs in blankets' and tea and coffee provided by Ann who has done a wonderful job, together with Juliet, in providing our refreshments throughout the year.

In the second half we had a quiz ably produced and delivered by **Bob Paterson** and the winner, with 12 points from 18, was **John Hodgskin** with **Mike Smith** second with 10 points after a tie-break. Prizes were awarded by Bob.

Boxes of chocolates were presented to **Ann** and **Ian** (for **Juliet**) as thanks for doing the teas for us. There then followed a mini auction where 8 items from 15 were sold. All in all a very good December meeting.

The Christmas Competitions and Quiz evening was held on Thursday 20th with 27 members present. The three advanced-level competitions were judged by **Tom Fowler** from the Hampshire Federation while the remaining ones were voted on by the members. The results were as follows:-

THE COMPETITION WINNERS

The Jubilee Cup	2 entries	won by Alan Cross with 'The 5/- Postage Dues of Victoria'.
The Reg Rhodes Shield	3 entries	won by Mike Gurr with 'Early Fire Insurance'.
The Keith Foster Trophy	5 entries	won by Ian Keel with 'Something to Pay and Postage Dues'.
The Frank Record Trophy	1 entry	won by Jerry Wilson with 'Free French issues 1941-44'.
The Novice's Cup	1 entry	won by Tony Jordan with 'The St Gotthard Mailcoach'.
The Single Sheet Salver	7 entries	won by Alan Cross with 'Aniline and Eosin stamp dyes'.
The Society Trophy	Awarded to Alan Cross for a score above 77% at advanced level.	

The customary gift was given to Tom Fowler for the judging on the evening. His comments and markings will be available soon.

The Christmas buffet was mainly organised by **Ann Martin** with able assistance from **Mike** and **Martin** and helpers **Julia** and **Margaret** on the night. There was a great selection of food and wine for all and we managed to 'clear the decks' so to speak. During and afterwards we had the Christmas Quiz that was set by Barney our Chairman. There were 41 questions with 51 points awarded and it was quite hard and made one think.

The winners of the quiz were **Paula and Phillip Cant** and **Margaret Tanner** with 34 points. Chocolates were presented as prizes.

Finally I must apologise for not having any pictures of the meeting or quiz winners – these were too dark to print for some reason whereas the competition winners etc were both ok!

THE POSTCARD PAGE



A lovely postcard of a triptych of the Palazzo in Venice.

The original is actually a cross-stitch picture that was obtained at the recent needlework and sewing exhibition at the Alexandra Palace.

No Samurai chose his lot. All were born into a life ruled by a warrior's ethic, the stern code that demanded the Samurai's unflinching devotion to his feudal lord. The rigid system left no room for doubts or hesitation and failure to uphold Bushido (the way of the warrior) sentenced a samurai to death by his own hand. Above all other ideals stood duty and he who found the imperatives of duty unattainable was expected to slice open his stomach with a short sword while a faithful second decapitated him. Ritual death by the sword could preserve honour, a crucial consideration for a member of a clan dependant on income from a wealthy lord.

These 3 of 24 cards came from the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford from their Japanese Art exhibition I went to last year.



The Shogun Ieyasu Tokugawa



Akechi Mitsuharu crossing a river on his famous horse Okage



General Sakai Todasugu

USEFUL WEBSITES

Tony Bray for World new issues at www.tonybray.co.uk

Royal Mail for all past and new issues at www.royalmail.com

The society website with lots of data and links at www.tdps.co.uk

Avion Thematics – one of the best organised sites at www.avionstamps.com

****The Avion website now incorporates the stock listings for Phoenix International****

Portsmouth stamp shop for awkward items and covers at www.portsmouthstampshop.co.uk

A.B.P.S for all the latest philatelic news, events and links at www.abps.org.uk

Recent and Future Royal Mail Issues

Last November

9th January

23rd February

24th May

16th April

The Christmas issues

The London Underground

Jane Austen

Classic T.V.

Great Britons

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Society Subscriptions are now due for 2013 at the new cost of £10.00. Please make any cheque out to Thatcham and District Philatelic Society (or TDPS will do), and send it to the Treasurer Mike Ward or contact him or a committee member at any club meeting.

Sales and Wants

You are able to advertise your items for sale or your `wants` on this page. Please feel free to contact the editor, Martin Farr, at club meetings, by email or by `phone.

I have been trying for ages to obtain these Japanese stamps issued in 2009. If anyone has them or is going to stamp fairs etc could you please look out for me – I would be most grateful. Martin Farr - editor
Japan – Letter Writing Week – 2009 – SG 4191-4913 (views of Fujisawa, Okitsu and Chiriu)

Congratulations

Our Chairman, **John Baron**, has just experienced an entertaining and rewarding weekend in the North West. His competition entry on `The Lottery` was awarded a Gold Medal in the North West Federation competition. As a member of the Lytham St Annes Philatelic Society he was asked to submit an entry into the Open Class – but this was not all! He was then asked by the Federation to sign the “Roll of Distinguished Lancashire Philatelists” being now one of only 25 people to have been so honoured. Many congratulations John.

And more Congratulations

To **Louise Funnell** who was awarded a Silver Medal at Hampex for “The Card Players” - a 16-sheet entry on the art of Cezanne. Well done.

Extract from the Daily Mail

An elderly couple who bought a stamp album at a local flea market for £15 were stunned to discover that it contained a rare specimen worth £2.2million! Frau Hoffman bought the album in Dresden and showed it to her husband who immediately spotted an 1861 American 1cent stamp of Benjamin Franklin. Only 3,100 were ever printed during the American Civil War. Herr Hoffman said when I saw the 1cent stamp I almost stopped breathing! There is only one other example known and that is in a New York museum and dealers have told me that it is worth at least 3 million US dollars. He now plans to fly to America to get the stamp authenticated by experts

THE BACK PAGE

“Club Stamps” corner

TDPS Club Stamps are now being looked after by Dave Tanner who will be present at most of our club meetings. There will usually be a Club Table at all stamp fairs held at the Memorial Hall and at Westbex.

Accessories. Dave is also the contact for the purchase of all philatelic accessories – most of which are available to be ordered at a small discount.

Stamps of the World Catalogue set (normal price - £200) – TDPS price £155 + p&p

Collect British stamps (normal price - £12.95) – TDPS price £10 + p&p

GB Concise (normal price - £30) – TDPS price £23.50 + p&p

A small percentage always goes to club funds. Give Dave a ring on 01256 780467

Packet Circuit

If you are interested in joining the society packet circuit then please contact Mike Gurr on 01635 43398 or see him at any club meeting.

Future Programme and Events

Monday 7 th January	World leaders/10 famous people.
Thursday 17 th January	“From then `till now” with our President John Baron
Monday 4 th February	Music and musical instruments
Saturday 16 th February	Stamp Fair at the Memorial Hall
20 th – 23 rd February	Spring STAMPEX, Islington, London
Thursday 21 st February	New Acquisitions
Monday 4 th March	Eastern Delights
Thursday 21 st March	5 sheets or 50p
Saturday 23rd March	WESTBEX 2013 – our society annual Stamp Fair at the Kennet School, Thatcham.
Monday 2 nd April	Overprints
Thursday 18 th April	`Jamaica stamps and Postal History` with Steve Jarvis

Officers of the Club

President	John Baron	01235 820120
Chairman	Barney Bardsley	0777 0376 235
Vice Chair	Ian Keel	01488 681500
Secretary	Graeme Stewart	01635 866942
Treasurer	Mike Ward	01635 864307

Committee

Ann Martin	01488 682728
Tony Jordan	01089 302279
Colin Bartholemew	01635 865457
Mike Gurr	01635 43398

Archivist	Julia Wilson	WestBex	Will Roberts	Publicity	Martin Farr
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